

Message Text

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21

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT:TL

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

INTERIOR:BBURNS (INFO)

INTERIOR/BUREAU OF MINES:JBOWEN
(INFO)

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R 160143Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ENRG, PINT, PL, OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT BY MINISTER OF MINING KULPINSKI

1. DURING CONVERSATION EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 14, POLISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR WIEJACZ AND MFA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR KINAST INFORMED EUR/EE (SCHMIDT) THAT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY MINISTER KULPINSKI WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT SPRING.

2. WIEJACZ SAID POSTPONEMENT WAS DUE TO COMBINATION OF FACTORS, NAMELY, UNAVAILABILITY OF SECRETARY KLEPPE DURING BUSY PRE-ELECTION PERIOD AND THE RECENT POLISH COAL MINING DISASTER AT WALBRYCH. HOWEVER, KINAST, WHO JOINED CONVERSATION AT ABOUT THAT POINT, MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT PRIMARY REASON FOR GOP DECISION TO POSTPONE THE VISIT WAS THE WALBRYCH MINE DISASTER. KINAST SAID IT MIGHT WELL BE MIS-INTERPRETED WITHIN POLAND IF THE MINISTER OF MINING WERE TO GO ABROAD SO SOON AFTER THE DISASTER RATHER THAN REMAIN IN POLAND AND OVERSEE THE INVESTIGATION.

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3. IN RESPONSE, SCHMIDT SAID HE WAS SORRY TO HEAR THIS

NEWS BUT THAT IT WAS FULLY UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT OF THE
TRAGEDY AT WALBRYCH. HOPEFULLY THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICUL-
TIES IN RESCHEDULING THE VISIT NEXT SPRING AS PROPOSED. ROBINSON

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